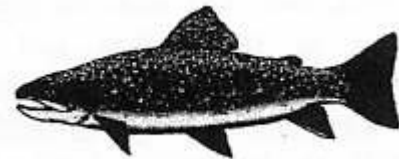


# DOWNRIGGER



## Presidents Message

Good Fishing!

Gary

## Tournament Insight

### “Tips-Up for the Troops”

#### Charity Troop Appreciation Event Bass Fishing Tournament

To help sponsor the **Brain Injury Association of Michigan Veteran Program’s**

This 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual “Tips-Up” Charity Veteran’s Appreciation event was held at Kensington Metropark on Kent Lake on June 14, 2008. The Michigan B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation and other organizations members brought there fully rig professional Bass Boats and their skills and took out over 50 Veterans fishing.

These Veterans served in Iraq, Afghanistan, WWII and other Battles to help keep us safe and this our way of saying “Thank-you”. Each Vet received a tackle box full of goodies before the tournament started. The results of the tournament: We had over \$10,000 in donated prizes for the Vets after the tournament. Each Vet received at least one prize. Some of the prizes where a aluminum boat and trailer, 2 night stay on Mackinac Island, gas weed trimmers, gift cards plus lots more great items.

There was a breakfast in the morning and All-American family style B-B-Q after the tournament. There were lots of great volunteers to help with the food and help run the tournament; there was also live music after the tournament.

**Final Results**

Team Name	Fish / Fish Alive	Total Weight	Big Fish
<b>PVA Team 27</b>			
<b>1st</b> BRIAN LANG, DEVON BROUWER (VET)	5/ 5	14.42	4.02
<b>PVA Team 10</b>			
<b>2nd</b> JASON CURTIS (VET), GREGORY NELSON (VET)	5/ 5	11.82	3.96
<b>PVA Team 39</b>			
<b>3rd</b> DOUG RATLIFF, PERRY FAIN (VET)	5/ 5	10.94	2.89



**Brain Injury Association of Michigan, web-site <http://www.biami.org/support.htm>**  
**Tips-Up for the Troops, web-site with lot of pictures [www.tips-up.com](http://www.tips-up.com)**

**Cass Lake Tournament July 12, 2008**

We had twelve anglers fishing from four boats on a rainy day. Anglers included Ed Kretch with Lee, Robbin, and Bryan Nancarrow; Mark Morris and Steve Loehr; Jeff Loehr with Leroy Brown and Hank Nykiec; Gary Mobley with Scott Lewis and Glenn Koskodin.

We did manage to catch some fish despite the rain. Steve Loehr had a successful day taking first place panfish (1lb 5 oz), first place smallmouth (1lb 2 oz) and 3<sup>rd</sup> place walleye (1lb 7 oz). Glenn Koskodin took first place largemouth (1lb 2oz) Mark Morris was the big winner in the walleye category taking 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> with a 3lb 6oz and a 2lb 1oz walleye. Mark also had a 2<sup>nd</sup> place panfish (7oz). There was a tie for 3<sup>rd</sup> place panfish between Gary Mobley and Lee Nancarrow



each with a total weight of 5oz.  
 Thanks to Tresa Morris for lunch after the weigh-in.

**ARCADIA TOURNAMENT**  
**August 16-17, 2008**

The Arcadia tournament started with a 5:00 a.m. captain's meeting at the Van Conant's. After some good mornings, and some fishing information exchanged, the anglers departed for their boats. There was

information shared on the radio to assist each other fishing which was great to hear. Warren Newsted had a fish he couldn't get the hook out of so he wondered if he could weigh his fish with the lure in him. Bob Schulz wanted to put a lure in his fish too. Somehow they both managed to keep their lures in their boats. Jean Matusko came to lunch and said a 27# king jumped right in their boat and then jumped right out again. She wondered if that would count. Lines were pulled at 12:00 noon and weigh-in was held at Steve Bruford's at 1:00 p.m. A lunch of grilled chicken breast sandwiches, potato salad, baked beans, kielbasa/kraut, and cookies was served following weigh-in. A special thank you to Marti Newsted and Kathy Hazelett for their assistance at lunch. I appreciate the help girls.

## Participants:

Adventure II: Walt/Pat Van Conant, Bob/Kathy Hazelett  
 B B Marie: Pat, Brian Larsen, Ryan Ferdon, Gary Bratton  
 Big Enough: Warren/Marti Newsted  
 Bounty Hunter: Bob, Brandon Schulz  
 Daddy's Toy: Glenn, Robert Appel, Scott Lewis, John Longstreet  
 DieHard: Ed/Jean Matusko (Lunch Only)  
 Mistress: Michael, Michael Christian II, Rick Hawkins, Nick Mendenhall  
 My Way: Bill Anglerandt, Dave Gresham, Lynn Rineman  
 Off The Hook: Gary Mobley, Paul, Steve, Nolan Stahr  
 Reel Adventure: Steve, David, Mark Bruford  
 Reel Lease Me: Jerry/Judy Rank, Tim Roache

## Placements:

Species	Place	Weight	Angler	Boat	Captain
King	1 <sup>st</sup>	15# 8oz	Brandon Schulz	Bounty Hunter	Bob Schulz
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	14# 3oz	Pat Van Conant	Adventure II	Walt Van Conant
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	13# 12oz	Warren Newsted	Big Enough	Warren Newsted
Steelhead	1 <sup>st</sup>	5# 0oz	Pat Van Conant	Adventure II	Walt Van Conant
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	4# 14oz	Gary Bratton	B B Marie	Pat Larsen
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4# 3oz	Lynn Rineman	My Way	Bill Anglebrandt

Mystery Fish: 5# King Judy Rank 5# 0oz on Reel Lease Me

Sunday: The captain's meeting was held again at 5:00 a.m. Boy, that's before breakfast. The Anglers departed at 5:30 a.m. for another morning of fishing. It was a little cooler but the water was great. It looks like the young folks showed us all up with Nolan Stahr on Off the Hook catching a about a 15# king Friday evening. Brandon Schulz got a first place Saturday with a 15# 8oz king and Robert Appel caught a first place 19# 2oz king on Sunday.

## Placement:

Species	Place	Weight	Angler	Boat	Captain
King	1 <sup>st</sup>	19# 2oz	Robert Appel	Daddy's Toy	Glenn Appel
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	14# 9oz	Bob Schulz	Bounty Hunter	Bob Schulz
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	13# 2oz	Val Bruford	Reel Adventure	Steve Bruford

Mystery Fish: 7# King Pat Larsen 7# 11oz on B B Marie

It was fun hearing all the stories these folks can tell. Thank you all for the support of our tournament. You are what makes it a success. The jokes and stories are a bonus.

Thanks for coming and we will see you on the water. Happy fishing.

Walt/Pat Van Conant  
Arcadia Tournament Chairpersons

### **New for 2008**

**Any angler without a boat who would like to fish a tournament can contact the Downrigger and have their name added to a list of anglers looking for a boat to crew on for a tournament.**

**Any captain who needs a crew can also add their name to a list of captains looking for a crew for a tournament. If you want to be placed on this list contact Scott Lewis either by e-mail [michiganbasser@yahoo.com](mailto:michiganbasser@yahoo.com) or by phone 248-887-8201**

**Please leave your name and contact information along with the tournament(s) you would like to fish.**

#### **Captains looking for crew members:**

Captain	Tournament	Contact information
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#### **Boatless anglers looking to fish in a tournament:**

Angler	Tournament	Contact information
Scott Lewis	Any this season	248-887-8201 <a href="mailto:michiganbasser@yahoo.com">michiganbasser@yahoo.com</a>

### **Angler Articles:**

## **Fishing Lake Huron**

By Tom Ott

There is a rumor amongst the fishing community that Lake Huron is dead. While it is true that the Salmon fishery is minimal, there are other fish on the rebound. The two most plentiful fish in the lake are the Lake Trout and the Walleye. Many Salmon fishermen have continued their downrigger style fishing and focused on the Lake Trout using traditional methods and lures. The Lake Trout fishery is improving and many limit catches were taken with fish in the fifteen to twenty pound range. There are also a significant number of Salmon fishermen who have become Walleye fisherman. They have done so because the Walleye have become extremely plentiful in Lake Huron. It appears that very large numbers of Walleye have emerged from Saginaw Bay and migrated around the "thumb" as far south as Harbor Beach. The emergence of this fishery has brought excitement and new life to the Lake Huron fishermen. The migration has provided a bountiful fishery for the fishermen in Port Austin, Grindstone, Port Hope and Harbor Beach. Each Port providing limit catches as the Walleye moved in search of a food source. More often than not, the parking lots at launch ramps were full by 7:30 am and starting to empty by 10:00 am as fishermen returned with limit catches. This held true whether there was a single fisherman with five fish or four fishermen with twenty fish. The large schools of Walleye seemed to stay in water depths from 25 to 50 feet and holding in the 25 foot to bottom range. Most fish caught were in the 19 to 23 inch size range with some fish up to 25 inches. It was extremely rare to catch an undersized fish. Fishing methods differed from the normal methods used in the Saginaw Bay with many boats using downriggers and slide divers with night crawler harnesses as bait. The most popular and productive fishing method was using lead core line and crawler harnesses. Two and three colors of lead core seemed to be enough to get the bait to the fish and were kept away from the boat with the use of in-line planer boards. Leader lengths of 30 feet were often used to hold the harness to the lead core. The season for this year is over, but this fishery is something to keep in mind for next year. As you know, the "thumb" was once a great Perch fishing area and

there is talk of the return of Perch fishing in addition to the Walleye. Smallmouth Bass fishing along the same coast has been and is great, but that is another story.

## **Michigan Department of Natural Resources**

### **Fisheries Division**

**April 28, 2008**

#### **Proposal to review the daily bag limit for salmon**

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is considering a change in bag limit regulations for some salmon species in the Great Lakes and connected rivers. This review is in response to requests from anglers over the past two decades, and especially the last three years, for the Department to consider changes to the current daily bag limits for Chinook salmon and coho salmon. Potential changes in regulations would be applied statewide.

1. What are the current regulations for trout and salmon in the Great Lakes?

- Atlantic salmon, Brook trout, Brown trout, Chinook salmon, Coho salmon, Lake trout, Pink salmon, Rainbow trout and Splake: 5 in any combination but no more than 3 of any one species, except that up to 5 pink salmon may be harvested.

2. How long have the current regulations been in place?

- The current daily bag limits have been in place on all trout and salmon (except Lake trout) since April 1, 1989. Prior to that date the daily limit for all trout and salmon species was 5 in any combination, except for lake trout.

3. Which species are being considered for a change in the daily bag limit?

- Chinook and coho salmon only.

4. Why are Chinook and Coho Salmon the only species being considered?

- Anglers throughout the Great Lakes are generally satisfied with the daily bag limit for the other trout and salmon species. An opportunity exists to consider a higher daily bag limit for these two species.

5. What is the new proposal?

- The daily bag limit for Chinook and coho salmon could be increased to 5 per day. The regulation would read "5 in any combination but no more than 3 of any one species, except that up to 5 Chinook, Coho, or Pink salmon may be harvested.

6. Why would the bag limit change for these two species be considered for all the lakes?

- The Department is committed to making regulations less confusing. Changing the daily bag limit for these two species across all four lakes would be consistent with this commitment. In addition, all other State and Provincial jurisdictions bordering the four Great Lakes currently have a 5 fish daily bag limit for these species.

7. Why the focus on daily bag limits; have you considered changing size or season restrictions?

- Virtually no trout or salmon are caught and harvested below the designated size limit of 10 inches and, except for lake trout and splake, the season for trout and salmon in the Great Lakes is already open all year. Daily bag limits are generally viewed by biologists as a tool to limit fishing exploitation by experienced anglers while attempting to distribute harvest more equitably among all anglers. Research has shown that the vast majority of anglers do not catch the allowed daily bag limit. Based on those findings, bag limits tend to be modified based on social consideration rather than biological factors.

8. Why are daily bag limits not very effective for Chinook or coho salmon?

- Natural mortality sources on fish populations exert the most control over their numbers in the wild. In fact, natural mortality rates in most fish populations are higher than fishing mortality rates, especially for most Great Lakes populations.

9. What are the potential biological implications of this proposal?

- For all practical reasons there are none. Biologically it is unnecessary to restrict harvest for these two species to 3 per day, although it is possible that higher bag limits could, in rare circumstances, negatively effect natural

reproduction of salmon. In most years increasing the daily bag limit to 5 fish for Chinook and coho salmon would result in very small increases in total harvest. Maintaining lower bag limits may restrict harvest of fish when their abundance and catch rates are very high. When abundance and catch rates are very high, a few more anglers might catch their limit.

10. What would be the potential effect on fisheries if the daily bag limit was increased?

- While the vast majority of anglers do not catch their limit of these species, there are rare and potentially localized circumstances where a higher daily bag limit could possibly result in some level of reduction in natural reproduction by these species in Michigan's rivers. In addition, greater fishing effort on streams could result in increased harassment of spawning fish, thus indirectly reducing natural reproduction.
- A higher daily bag limit may be more consistent with management of the open lake fisheries. Although highly unlikely, in extremely rare circumstances there is a small possibility that additional harvest might help to mitigate any unbalance in predator and prey populations.
- Since angler effort and harvest could be higher in select waters, there could be a potential increase in user conflicts between anglers, especially in river systems.

11. Does the proposal include changes to the daily bag limit for these two species in rivers and streams?

- Yes. Regardless of where these species are caught, the daily bag limit would be consistent to ensure simplicity of regulations for the fishing public.

12. If there are relatively few biological implications then this must be primarily a social issue, correct?

- Correct. In previous reviews of fishing regulations for the Great Lakes, the angling community noted that while harvesting fish is important, harvest should not be concentrated on a few successful anglers. For nearly two decades the three fish limit for these two species has generally been viewed by the public as sufficient harvest for one trip.

## **Michigan Department of Natural Resources**

### **Fisheries Division**

**April 28, 2008**

#### **Proposal to review the number of rods authorized for use while fishing**

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is considering a change in the number of rods allowed for use by State recreational anglers while fishing. Currently, the number of lines (rods) an angler may use on most waters is limited to 2. Several years ago, however, angling groups worked with the legislature to allow 3 lines while in the act of trolling for trout and salmon in lakes Michigan, Huron or Superior. This discrepancy has caused some confusion among anglers and has created law enforcement problems. The Department has been asked to revisit this regulation.

1. What are the current line limits for recreational anglers?

A person shall not use more than 2 single lines or 2 single rods and lines while fishing.

The exception to this rule is that on Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Superior and the St. Mary's River, persons in the act of trolling may use 3 lines and rods if they are targeting trout and salmon.

2. How long have the current regulations been in place?

The 2-line limit has been in effect for more than 80 years.

A change in statute in 2001 created the opportunity for anglers to use 3 lines on Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Superior, and the St. Mary's River if they are trolling and targeting for trout and salmon.

3. What is the new proposal?

The new proposal is to allow anglers to use 3 lines statewide, including inland and Great Lakes waters.

4. Does the Department have the authority to change line limits?

An increase to three lines statewide will require a change in statute, which can only be accomplished by an act of the legislature.

The 2001 change in statute did grant the Department limited authority to increase the number of lines that may be used to harvest trout and salmon while trolling on the Great Lakes and connecting waters. Returning the limit back to 2 lines statewide for all anglers does not require legislative action.

5. What are the line/rod limits in adjoining jurisdictions?

Indiana: 3 rods

Minnesota: 1 rod, 2 rods may be used while ice fishing

Ohio: 2 rods

Ontario: 2 rods

Wisconsin: 3 rods

6. What are the potential positive aspects of increasing the number of lines to 3 statewide?

Currently there is a disparity in the number of lines that can be used by certain anglers, depending on where and how they are fishing. This proposal will create a uniform regulation for all anglers.

Regulations would be simplified.

Anglers trolling for species other than trout and salmon will be able to use an additional line than is currently allowed.

Ice anglers will be able to use any combination of rods/tip-ups for ice fishing.

Anglers will have a greater flexibility in choosing their level of effort.

7. What are the potential negative aspects of increasing the number of lines to 3 statewide?

Overcrowding could result at piers, below spillways, or wherever high concentrations of anglers already occur.

Ice, bank, and surf anglers, especially those fishing in groups, may utilize larger fishing areas (i.e. length of river bank), which may cause user conflicts.

8. What are the potential biological implications of this proposal?

There are none that can be readily identified, but there is insufficient information available to predict all of the potential impacts if there is increased harvest (e.g., potential for additional harvest of northern pike during ice fishing). While some anglers may reach their daily bag limit more quickly or frequently using an additional line, it is likely that other anglers will be less efficient harvesting fish with additional lines.

9. Do the fishery biologists believe this change would have any impact to the fishery?

An increase in the line limit may increase effort, but since most anglers do not catch their daily bag limit of fish it is very unlikely such a change would result in a significantly higher level of harvest that could negatively impact a fishery.

In certain situations, especially ice fishing for vulnerable species such as northern pike and muskellunge, there may be an overall increase in catch.

10. Will daily bag limits also be increased?

No. The proposal only affects the number of lines. There is a separate proposal for increasing the Chinook and coho salmon daily bag limit.

11. Has the current 3-line limit for trout and salmon on lakes Michigan, Huron and Superior harmed the fishery in any way?

No. Those anglers that fish for trout and salmon in the upper Great Lakes simply have the opportunity to increase their efficiency when fishing.

12. Why do we need line limits when there are already daily bag limits in place?

Line limits and daily bag limits work together to distribute catch equitably among anglers. If set too high, one result can be that relatively few anglers harvest a disproportionate share of the catch.

Socially, line limits create a fair level of effort and use of "space", especially in shoreline and pier fishing situations.

## **DNR Reminds Anglers About Bait Restrictions**

Aug. 18, 2008

Contact Todd Grischke 517-373-6762, Gary Whelan 517-373-6948 or Mary Dettloff 517-335-3014

As salmon begin making their way up the state's rivers from the Great Lakes, the Department of Natural Resources reminds anglers that the use of uncertified salmon eggs for bait is restricted in some waters as part of a strategy to slow the spread of viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS). "Generally speaking, if you don't take any spawn out of the watershed it came from and you fish below the first upstream barrier from the lake, you are fine," said DNR Fisheries Biologist Gary Whelan. "But remember, you can't use that roe upstream from the first dam." Anglers who purchase spawn for bait should look for certified VHS-disinfected spawn as this bait can be used anywhere in the state. Certified VHS-free spawn is widely available. VHS, a disease that causes fish to die from internal bleeding, has caused mortalities among a number of species of fish in Michigan. The disease has been found in the Michigan waters of Lake Erie and Lake Huron. VHS has been found in Lake Michigan, but not in the Michigan waters. It has not been found in Lake Superior. "There is no known treatment for VHS," Whelan said. "Our best defense against it is trying to prevent its spread."

## **Great Lakes rising again; levels close to normal**

### **Summer surprise comes after heavy rains, snow**

BY TINA LAM • FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER • AUGUST 4, 2008

After a parched summer last year that left docks stranded and boat propellers scraping sandy shallows, the Great Lakes are blissfully -- and surprisingly -- full again this year. Heavy snow and rains since last winter have made the lakes rise. Scientists aren't sure whether this will last, but they're hopeful. The temperatures, moisture and ice cover next winter will be critical. "If we get two more good, normal winters with normal precipitation, then we'd have a turnaround," said Cynthia Sellinger, deputy director of the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory in Ann Arbor, part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Lake Superior, which beat its 1926 record low last fall, rebounded to within 4 inches of its long-term average in July. Lakes Erie and Ontario are 2 and 4 inches, respectively, above their July averages. Lakes Michigan and Huron are up 8 inches, though still lagging more than a foot below their normal July levels. Lake St. Clair is up 10 inches from last year and down just 2 inches from its normal for July.

### **A wetter-than-normal year**

After three years of below-average precipitation, all the lakes had higher-than-normal precipitation during the past 12 months, Sellinger said. Last September, the Great Lakes region got double its normal rainfall for that month, lifting Lake Superior from its record lows. By March, meteorologists across the region said the winter had brought record snowfall that was heavy and dense with water. Grand Rapids, Flint and Saginaw had their snowiest Februarys ever, and Wellston, near Manistee, set a new record for its winter season. From December 2007 through February, the traditional winter months, for example, Grand Rapids got 98 inches of snow, 36

inches more than normal. Sault Ste. Marie also got 98 inches, 8 inches above its usual levels. Even Detroit got 59 inches of snow during those months -- 22 inches above average. Near the lakes, the snow was not the fluffy, low-moisture kind sucked up from the lakes by cold, dry air and dumped back on the ground. Instead, the wet snow came from storms outside the basin, adding to the lakes' depths. That was followed by heavy rains in spring and early summer across the region. In the past 12 months, each lake's basin got 2 to 7 inches more rain than the long-term average, in 1900-99. Basin-wide, the average was 4 inches more than normal for the past year through July. Inland lakes are higher than last summer, too, because of increased rainfall, said Bill Deedler, meteorologist for the National Weather Service in White Lake Township. For example, the northern suburbs in Oakland County and counties near the Ohio border, which have been particularly wet, already have averaged 10-13 inches of rain, when the norm for the entire summer would be 10 inches, he said. But Deedler said a drying pattern is beginning to take hold, with higher than normal temperatures forecast through fall. Said Sellinger, "We've had above-normal precipitation on the lakes, but the question is whether that's going to continue."

### **Problems persist**

Boaters and beachgoers are happy about higher lakes, but the problems aren't over. Ships on the Great Lakes that carry coal, iron ore and cement for industry moved slightly more cargo in June than they did a year ago, but they're still loading light because some harbors still are too shallow, according to the Lake Carriers' Association in Cleveland. Despite 16 inches more water in Lake Superior last week compared with a year ago, the Wenonah ferry from Grand Portage, Minn., to Isle Royale National Park still is not running. Last summer was the first in 30 years the 149-passenger boat couldn't get to the island. "We're still hoping to get into the water this season," said John Szczech, chief financial officer for the ferry. The water still is too shallow at Grand Portage to ensure the ferry won't hit the bottom in a swell, he said, but he's hoping the boat can get out of the harbor this month on flat-water days.

### **'Every inch counts'**

At his cottage on Saginaw Bay, the water is clearly higher, said Dave Lampe, owner of a plumbing company in Detroit. "It has come back," he said. "To me, it seems about a foot higher." He lives on a shallow bay, and last summer, he could walk out half a mile and still hit water only knee-deep. This year, the water is deeper much closer to shore, making it easier to sail his small boat. "Every inch counts," he said. At the G. Marsten Dame Marina in Northport on Lake Michigan, waterlines on the break wall are higher. "Absolutely we've noticed," said Martha Cook, assistant harbormaster. Boaters are finding it easier to get in and out of their docks, and beaches are not as enormous as last year, she said. Some docks were so stranded last summer, sitting over land rather than water, that owners couldn't use them. This year, it's better, she said. But near Harbor Beach on Lake Huron, Pat Tessmer said the beach at her cottage doesn't look that different. "If they say it's up 8-10 inches, I'll argue with them," she said. "I still can't see the lake," which is obscured by tall weeds growing up

from the sand. The lakes normally rise May-October and fall November-April. The Army Corps of Engineers forecasts that by December, Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron and St. Clair will remain on the dry side, 4 to 14 inches lower than their long-term averages, but the two lower lakes, Ontario and Erie, will be wetter and close to their longtime normal levels. Beyond that is anybody's guess.

## **Clean Boating Act 2008**

### **Clean Boating Act Now Law**

By Chris Horton  
Director, BASS Conservation

### **March 24, 2008 — Take Action On The Future of Boating!**

**The Threat.** Late last year, we updated you on efforts to legislatively prevent a new EPA regulation that would require National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for all recreational boats that have incidental discharges. The proposed regulations are a result of a court order directing the EPA to stop exempting recreational boats as a significant source of incidental discharges. These incidental discharges include engine cooling water, deck run-off, live-well discharges, etc. Essentially, any BASS boat in the United States would be required to obtain an NPDES permit under the new EPA regulations expected later this year.

**The Clean Boating ACT of 2008.** Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL) have introduced S. 2766, also known as the Clean Boating ACT of 2008. This act offers an effective compromise by permanently reinstating the previous exemption for recreational boaters, while also protecting our waters by evaluating whether additional, reasonable best management practices need to be implemented for some incidental discharges. Passage of this bill would still protect our waterways from harmful ballast water discharges from commercial vessels, while removing the undue burden that would otherwise be placed on recreational boaters.

### **May 16, 2008 — Clean Boating Act of 2008 Passes House Committee**

On May 1 the House version of the Clean Boating Act of 2008 (H.R. 5949) was introduced and referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. We are very happy to report that yesterday H.R. 5949 passed by voice vote out of committee. It now goes to the full House for a vote. Meanwhile, the Senate version of the Clean Boating Act of 2008 (S. 2766) is still in the Environment and Public Works Committee but may be considered as early as next week.

The passage of H.R. 5949 was a direct result of anglers and boaters contacting their Representatives. Both versions of the Clean Boating Act of 2008 still need constituency support if the situation is to be resolved by the September 2008 deadline.

### **May 19, 2008 — Senate to take action on Clean Boating Act**

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will consider S. 2766 on Wednesday, May 21. The bill is the Senate version of the Clean Boating Act of 2008, which will exempt recreational boaters from having to obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit from the EPA (or their state environmental agency) as mandated by a recent federal court decision concerning ballast water. The bill also calls for an evaluation of best management practices for recreational boaters where applicable.

It has become obvious that tighter regulation on ballast water discharges is needed by virtue of the undesirable creatures transferred in such discharges (e.g., zebra mussels, quagga mussels, round gobies, spiny water fleas, etc.). However, recreational boats don't have ballast water discharges, so lumping them into a ballast water regulation not only doesn't solve a problem, it simply doesn't make sense.

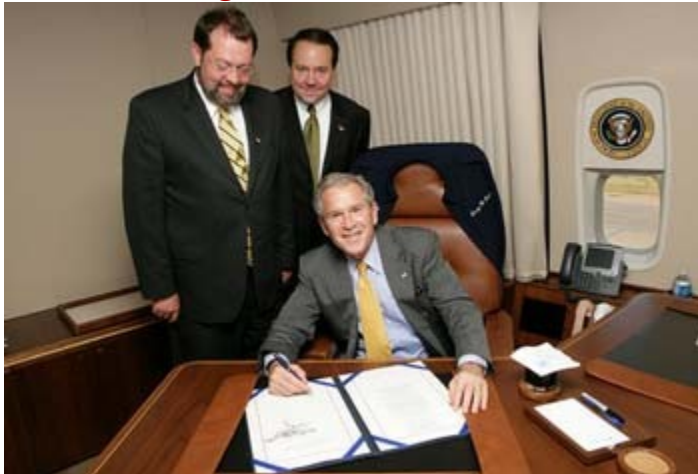
### **May 21, 2008 — Senate Committee Passes Clean Boating Act!**

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee voted unanimously to pass the Clean Boating Act of 2008 (S. 2766) during the Committee's full business meeting earlier today. The bill, like the House version (H.R. 5949), now goes to the full floor for a vote. No amendments were offered on the bill, and Senators Klobuchar, Boxer and Craig went out of their way to speak in favor of the legislation and the importance of getting it done. Senator Inhofe also spoke favorably of the bill, but added that small commercial vessels should be included in the legislation as well.

### **July 24, 2008 — Congress Spares Bassers from EPA Permits**

On Wednesday, both the U.S. House and Senate passed S. 2766, "The Clean Boating Act of 2008," which will permanently restore a long-standing exemption for recreational boats from permitting requirements under the Clean Water Act. The next stop for this piece of legislation is the White House where it is expected to receive the President's signature and go into law. The bill became necessary after a U.S. District Court decision in September 2006 which potentially subjected approximately 17 million recreational boats to permitting requirements under the Clean Water Act. These permits would have been expensive and subjected recreational boaters to maintenance and operation procedures that were designed for industrial polluters. "Congress stepped up in the last seconds of the fourth-quarter and gave anglers and boaters a much needed victory," said BASS Conservation Director Chris Horton. "The impending permit requirements for anyone operating a recreational vessel were not the result of any real problem, but rather a court's assumption that there was no difference between large, trans-oceanic shipping vessels and an 18-foot bass boat. Fortunately, the angling and boating communities came together like never before, and successfully convinced Congress that this regulation placed an undue burden on the millions of recreational boaters around the country. "My thanks to the BASS Federation Nations for their quick response to the many calls to action that went out at various times throughout this legislative course. With their help and the leadership of BASS, the National Marine Manufacturers Association and others, we demonstrated the collective power of the outdoor community."

### **July 30, 2008 — Clean Boating Act Now Law**



White House photo by Chris Greenberg

**President George W. Bush is joined by Rep. Steven LaTourette, R-OH, left, and Rep. Patrick Tiberi, R-OH, at the signing of S.2766, The Clean Boating Act of 2008, Tuesday, July 29, 2008, aboard Air Force One.**

Last night aboard Air Force One, President Bush signed the Clean Boating Act of 2008 into law. This is welcome news for the fishing and boating community. The law was enacted just two days before the public comment period closes on what would have been a devastating new EPA regulation.

The law permanently restores a long-standing exemption for recreational boats from permitting requirements under the Clean Water Act. It became necessary after a U.S. District Court decision in September 2006 which potentially subjected approximately 17 million recreational boats to permitting

requirements under the Clean Water Act. These permits would have been expensive and subjected recreational boaters to maintenance and operation procedures that were designed for industrial polluters.

"Congress and the President have given anglers and boaters a much needed victory," said BASS Conservation Director Chris Horton. "The angling and boating communities came together like never before, and successfully convinced our political leaders that this regulation placed an undue burden on the millions of recreational boaters around the country.

"My thanks to the BASS Federation Nations for their quick response to the many calls to action that went out at various times throughout this legislative course. With their help and the leadership of BASS, the National Marine Manufacturers Association and others, we demonstrated the collective power of the outdoor community."

### **Editor's Note:**

I hope that your Summer is going well and that you have caught many a limit so far. I ask that if any of you have submissions for the *Downrigger* please send them to me via e-mail at [michiganbasser@yahoo.com](mailto:michiganbasser@yahoo.com) I will be working in Microsoft word so if your submission could be in that format it would be a great help.

Scott Lewis

### **Downrigger Distribution**

As a member of Oakland County Sport fishing Association, you have the option to have your *Downrigger* delivered to you electronically (via e-mail) rather than by the United States Postal Service (USPS). The *Downrigger* is available for distribution through the USPS for members wishing to receive it that way or for members without internet/e-mail access. If you are interested in having your *Downrigger* sent to you via e-mail I need your current e-mail address, you can e-mail that address to me at [michiganbasser@yahoo.com](mailto:michiganbasser@yahoo.com) please indicate in the subject that it is *Downrigger* distribution. Thank you.

Missing a past issue of the *Downrigger*? Past issues of the *Downrigger* are available on line at the clubs web site [www.OCSFA.org](http://www.OCSFA.org) The club's web site includes photos of past tournaments and activities, a rather large list of relevant links and it also has a guest book which can be used to communicate with fellow members. Check out our web site at [www.OCSFA.org](http://www.OCSFA.org)

Scott Lewis

Editor

### **Up Coming Events:**

**October 15** OCSA Board meeting 6:30pm Membership meeting 7:30pm  
**December 3** OCSA board meeting at Gino's  
**December 13** Christmas party at the Oakland County Sportsman's Club  
 appetizers and drinks at 5:30; dinner at 6:30pm.

**All members are welcome to attend any board meeting! If any member is interested in becoming a board member see Gary Mobley and join us on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

### **Recipe Corner:**

I am always looking for some good recipes to publish in the *Downrigger*. These recipes don't have to be just for fish, any good recipe that you would like to share with your fellow club members would be appreciated. If you have a good one, please send it to me via e-mail at [michiganbasser@yahoo.com](mailto:michiganbasser@yahoo.com)

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